

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1. - 6. (canceled)

7. (previously amended) A method for screening an agent for promoting insulin production and/or an agent for increasing insulin content, comprising:

bringing a cell expressing a polypeptide selected from:

(a) a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4;

(b) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, and

exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation;

(c) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence in which 1 to 15 amino acids are deleted, substituted, and/or inserted in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation; and

(d) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having an 80% or greater homology with that of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation;

or a cell membrane thereof into contact with a substance to be tested, and analyzing whether or not the polypeptide is activated.

8. (withdrawn – previously amended) A process for manufacturing a pharmaceutical composition for promoting insulin production and/or increasing insulin content, comprising:

bringing a cell expressing a polypeptide selected from:

(a) a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4;

(b) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation;

(c) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence in which 1 to 15 amino acids are deleted, substituted, and/or inserted in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation; and

(d) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having an 80% or greater homology with that of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation;

or a cell membrane thereof into contact with a substance to be tested,

analyzing whether or not the polypeptide is activated, and

preparing a medicament containing the substance.

9. (withdrawn – previously amended) An agent for promoting insulin production and/or for increasing insulin content, comprising as an active ingredient a substance that activates a polypeptide selected from:

(a) a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4;

(b) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation;

(c) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence in which 1 to 15 amino acids are deleted, substituted, and/or inserted in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation; and

(d) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having an 80% or homology with that of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation.

10. (withdrawn – previously amended) A method for promoting insulin production and/or increasing insulin content, comprising administering to a subject a substance that activates a polypeptide selected from:

- (a) a polypeptide consisting of the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4;
- (b) a polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation;
- (c) a polypeptide comprising an amino acid sequence in which 1 to 15 amino acids are deleted, substituted, and/or inserted in the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation; and
- (d) a polypeptide consisting of an amino acid sequence having an 80% or greater homology with that of SEQ ID NO: 2 or 4, and exhibiting an activity of promoting insulin production by activation.

11. (canceled)

12. (new) The method according to claim 7, further comprising the step of selecting the substance which activates the polypeptide as the agent for promoting insulin production and/or an agent for increasing insulin content.

13. (new) The method according to claim 12, further comprising the step of confirming that the selected substance increases insulin production and/or insulin content.